(d) No, Sir. Wife as well as unmarried daughter(s) are already permitted to travel in the entitled class, on post-retirement passes issued to retired railway employees.

Complimentary rail pass for the dependents of retired railway employees

1678. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the existing rail pass rules in respect of retired railway employees and make the dependent parents of such pensioners eligible for complimentary passes;

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No modification to the existing pass rules is envisaged.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the existing pass facilities to retired Railway employees are considered reasonable, no liberalisation in this regard is contemplated.

Rail passes to retired Class III and IV railway employees

1679. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rail passes given to retired class IV and class III employees of railways every year;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of passes issued to retired class IV employees and bring them at par with class III employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) One set of pass every alternate year is given to Group 'D' (Class IV) employees who have retired with 25 years service. Group 'C' (Class III) employees are given one set if they have retired with 20 years of service or more and 2 sets if they have retired with 25 years service or more.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No liberalisation of pass facilities to retired employees is envisaged at present, in this regard.

Cola soft drinks

†1680. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the analysis of scientific data on harmful effects of Cola soft drinks as reported in Hindustan Times of 1st February, 1987; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to reconsider any Projects with overseas firms for setting up of soft drinks and other fast foods, including Health foods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes. Scientific studies conducted on the possible effects of soft drinks have revealed that consumption of soft drinks conforming to prescribed standards under PFA Rules, 1955 are unlikely to cause any harmful effect.

(b) As per the information received from Ministry of Industry the Government may reconsider proposals for foreign collaboration ties up, if they revised proposals are in accordance with the prevailing policy of the Government and in overall public interest.

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†Previously Unstarred Question 1312, transferred from the 9th March, 1987.